

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y OMISSION LINE AFTER LINE FOUR
OF SUMMARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, GW, US, UK, FR, UR

SUBJECT: INVITATIONS TO SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN
BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 15549; (B) STATE 278946; (C) USBERLIN 11;
(D) USBERLIN 30

BEGIN SUMMARY: WHETHER THE SOVIETS WILL SEND THEIR
SKATERS TO BERLIN HAS BECOME AN ISSUE ENGAGING THE
ATTENTION OF HIGH LEVELS OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. WHAT
WE HAVE LEARNED IN THE BONN GROUP LEADS US TO FEAR THAT
THE SENAT IS MAINTAINING A POINT OF PRINCIPLE BUT
POSSIBLY GIVING THE SOVIETS AN EXCUSE TO STAY AWAY AND
THUS LESSEN THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF BERLIN AS A FUTURE
INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CENTER. AT JANUARY 7 BONN GROUP
MEETING, FRG REP GAVE BRIEFING WHICH PARALLELED ACCOUNT
PROVIDED IN REFTEL (D), BUT ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
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GENSCHER HAD ALSO BECOME INVOLVED BECAUSE DEUTSCHER

SPORTBUND PRESIDENT WEYER HAD CALLED HIM FOR ADVICE ON THE INVITATION QUESTION. GENSCHER TOLD WEYER THAT, WHILE IT WAS BERLIN'S DECISION, THE FONOFF ADVICE WAS FOR THE BERLIN CHAPTER OF THE GERMAN SPEED SKATING ASSOCIATION TO SEND THE SOVIETS A SEPARATE INVITATION. THE SENAT DECIDED ON JANUARY 6 TO IGNORE THE FONOFF ADVICE, AND TO ADVISE THE BERLIN CHAPTER NOT TO ISSUE A SEPARATE INVITATION. THE FRG REP DID NOT TAKE GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE REMARKS OF THE SOVIET DCM IN BONN (REPORTED IN REF D), AND WAS DECIDEDLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE ULTIMATE SOVIET DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. SUDDEN PROMINENCE OF THIS ISSUE PROMPTS US TO FILL IN SOME OF THE GAPS IN PREVIOUS REPORTING ON THE SUBJECT. DURING DECEMBER BONN GROUP DISCUSSION OF REPLY TO BE SENT BY FCO TO UK NATIONAL SKATING ASSOCIATION QUERY (REFTEL A), FRG REP (HENZE) PROVIDED ALLIED REPS WITH SOME BACKGROUND ON INVITATIONS QUESTION. HE SAID THAT THE GERMANS HAD CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING THE BERLIN CHAPTER OF THE GERMAN SPEED SKATING ASSOCIATION (GSSA) ISSUE INVITATIONS INSTEAD OF OR IN ADDITION TO THE GSSA; HOWEVER, THE RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPEED SKATING ASSOCIATION (ISSA) EXPLICITLY STATE THAT ONLY NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS HAVE STANDING TO APPLY TO HOST CHAMPIONSHIPS. FURTHERMORE, SAID HENZE, "OTHER FRG LAENDER" WOULD NOT WANT INVITATIONS ISSUED BY THE BERLIN CHAPTER OF GSSA BECAUSE IT WOULD IMPLY THAT BERLIN WAS MORE EQUAL THAN OTHER LAENDER. THE FRG HAD RUN INTO THIS PROBLEM BEFORE WITH RESPECT TO SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BERLIN. IN ANY CASE, HENZE CONCLUDED, AN INVITATION FROM THE SENAT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION AS THE ORGANIZATION HOSTING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS WAS PRIVATE.

2. THE BONN GROUP AGREED, AS UK REP (HITCH) PUT IT, THAT "THE CHAMPIONSHIPS FALL WELL BELOW THE THRESHOLD OF THE QA" AND THAT SENAT INVITATIONS WERE THUS NOT REQUIRED. THE FOLLOWING TEXT WAS THEN AGREED FOR FCO USE IN REPLYING TO UK ASSOCIATION LETTER:

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BEGIN TEXT:

PLEASE REFER TO YOUR LETTER OF 9 SEPTEMBER ABOUT THE WORLD SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN WEST BERLIN.

WE HAVE MADE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD SPRINT SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BERLIN IN 1976. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THIS IS A

PRIVATELY ORGANIZED EVENT, IN WHICH NEITHER THE FEDERAL
GERMAN GOVERNMENT NOR THE WEST BERLIN SENAT IS
INVOLVED. PRIVATE PERSONS AND BODIES ARE NATURALLY
FREE TO ORGANIZE ALL THE EVENTS THEY WISH IN WEST
BERLIN, SO LONG AS THEY DO NOT CONTRAVENE ANY OF THE
LOCAL LAWS. AS THE COMPETITORS WILL BE COMING TO BERLIN
UNDER PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS, THIS EVENT IS NOT COVERED
BY ANNEX IV OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF 3
SEPTEMBER 1971. IF AT ANY STAGE THERE WERE TO BE AN

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OFFICIAL INVITATION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS EVENT, IT
WOULD OF COURSE BE ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUAD-
RIPARTITE AGREEMENT, I.E., BY THE SENAT OR JOINTLY BY
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE SENAT. END TEXT.

3. BECAUSE OF EARLY JANUARY PRESS REPORTS (REFTEL C),
ALLIED REPS AGREED ON JANUARY 5 THAT FCO RESPONSE SHOULD
BE HELD UP UNTIL SITUATION WAS CLARIFIED. AT JANUARY 6

TRIPARTITE MEETING, HOWEVER, HITCH STATED BMG HAD LOOKED INTO ALLEGATIONS APPEARING IN THE PRESS AND SAW NO REASON FOR REDRAFTING THE AGREED FCO REPLY OR FOR FURTHER DELAYING ITS DELIVERY. ALL REPS AGREED, AND REPLY WAS SENT BY FCO ON JANUARY 7.

4. AT FULL BONN GROUP MEETING ON JANUARY 7, ALLIED REPS ASKED FRG TO CLARIFY THE CURRENT SITUATION. US REP (CHAIRMAN) REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING SOVIET COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH INVITATIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED AND ASKED, IN PARTICULAR, FOR BACK-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUND ON THE REFERENCE BY DEPUTY FEDERAL PRESS SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD TO AN AGREED FRG/USSR "FORMULA" CONCERNING UNOFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO BERLIN SPORTING EVENTS. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) ADDED THAT HERZ HAD ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO AN FRG/USSR "UNDERSTANDING" IN HIS COMMENTS TO THE ALLIES IN BERLIN ON JANUARY 6.

5. FRG REP (VON ARNIM) DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF THE INVITATION WHICH HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS. THE INVITATION CARRIES BOTH GERMAN AND ENGLISH TEXTS. THE GERMAN PORTION OF THE GERMAN TEXT READS:

DIE DEUTSCHE EISSCHNELLAUF-GEMEINSCHAFT UND
DER BERLINER EISSPORT-VERBAND

HABEN DIE EHRE UND FREUDE IM AUFTRAG DES
DEUTSCHEN EISSPORT-VERBANDES
IHNEN HIERMIT DIE EINLADUNG
ZUR TEILNAHME

THE CORRESPONDING ENGLISH TEXT READS:

DEUTSCHE EISSCHNELLAUF-GEMEINSCHAFT
BERLINER EISSPORT-VERBAND

ON BEHALF OF THE
DEUTSCHER EISSPORT-VERBAND
HAVE THE HONOUR AND PLEASURE TO
INVITE YOU TO TAKE PART

VON ARNIM NOTED THAT THE CONJUNCTION "AND" IS MISSING FROM THE ENGLISH VERSION AND SAID THE SOVIETS HAD PICKED UP THAT DISTINCTION. (COMMENT: THE TEXTS OBVIOUSLY DO NOT FULLY JIBE WITH HENZE'S EXPLANATION CONTAINED PARA 1 ABOVE.)

6. VON ARNIM REFERRED TO THE DECEMBER 10 SOVIET TELEX

TO THE GERMAN ORGANIZERS QUOTED IN REF (D) AND
INTERPRETED IT TO MEAN THAT THE SOVIETS WERE NOT
CONTENT WITH A JOINT INVITATION ON A SINGLE PIECE OF
PAPER BUT WANTED A SEPARATE ONE FROM THE BERLIN
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CHAPTER OF THE GSSA, AS WELL AS ONE FROM THE SENAT. HE
SAID THAT GENSCHER HAD RECEIVED A CALL OVER THE WEEKEND
OF JANUARY 3 FROM DSB PRESIDENT WEYER ASKING FOR FONOFF
VIEWS. AFTER DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH MEYER-LANDRUT
OF FONOFF, GENSCHER TOLD WEYER THAT ALTHOUGH THE
DECISION WAS BERLIN'S, THE FONOFF WOULD ADVISE THE
SENAT TO REQUEST A SEPARATE INVITATION FROM THE BERLIN
CHAPTER OF GSSA. THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE
OCTOBER, 1973 FRG/USSR UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING

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INVITATIONS TO NON-OFFICIAL EVENTS IN BERLIN.

7. VON ARNIM ELABORATED THAT THAT UNDERSTANDING GREW OUT OF AN EFFORT TO CREATE A CERTAIN PARALLELISM BETWEEN OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AS COVERED IN ANNEX IV 2(D) OF THE QA AND UNOFFICIAL UNDERTAKINGS THAT LAY OUTSIDE THE QA. THE UNDERSTANDING, WORKED OUT IN MOSCOW BY FRG AND USSR EXPERTS, WAS THAT FOR UNOFFICIAL EVENTS INVITATIONS WOULD BE ISSUED BY THE BERLIN CHAPTER OF THE FRG-BASED ORGANIZATION, OR JOINTLY BY THE BERLIN CHAPTER AND THE FRG UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION. IN THE LATTER CASE, TWO PIECES OF PAPER WOULD BE REQUIRED. COMMENT: WE HAD BEEN INFORMED IN OCT. 1973 THAT FRG AND USSR WERE EXPLORING MODUS VIVENDI AS SET OUT ABOVE, BUT WE WERE NEVER INFORMED THAT ACTUAL AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. END COMMENT.

8. VON ARNIM STRESSED THAT THE SENAT'S JANUARY 6 DECISION NOT TO ASK THE BERLIN ICE SPORTS UNION TO SEND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A SEPARATE INVITATION WENT DIRECTLY AGAINST FONOFF ADVICE.

9. FRG REP (LUECKING) SAID MEYER-LANDRUT HAD ALSO ASKED THE SOVIET DCM IN BONN, TOKOVININ, WHY THE SOVIETS THOUGHT A SENAT INVITATION WAS NECESSARY. TOKOVININ APPEARED TO BE PERPLEXED AND OFFERED THE VIEW THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME SORT OF MISUNDERSTANDING IN MOSCOW. TOKOVININ SAID IT APPEARED THAT THE SOVIET SKATING FEDERATION HAD MISUNDERSTOOD USSR "MFA GUIDANCE" AND THAT THE DECEMBER 10 TELEGRAM FROM THE USSR SKATING FEDERATION TO THE BERLIN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE DID NOT REFLECT SOVIET POLICY. (COMMENT: THIS EXPLANATION BY LUECKING, WHO WORKS DIRECTLY FOR MEYER-LANDRUT, PUTS A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION ON TOKOVININ'S REMARKS THAN THAT IN REF (D). IT SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT GIVE IN ON THE SENAT INVITATION, BUT NOT ON THE SEPARATE INVITATION FROM THE BERLIN SKATING ASSOCIATION.)

10. LUECKING CONCLUDED THAT THE SOVIET REACTION WAS UNPREDICTABLE AND THAT THE WHOLE EPISODE WAS, ON THE ONE HAND, VERY REGRETTABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WAS A LESSON HERE FOR BERLINERS AND OTHERS TO BENEFIT FROM: IF SUCH EVENTS AS SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE DESIRED FOR BERLIN IN FUTURE, THEN THOSE RESPONSIBLE WOULD HAVE TO FACE UP TO REALITIES AND OBSERVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT.

11. COMMENT: WE CAN HOPE THAT THE "LESSON" HAS NOT
COME TOO LATE. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE ADVERSE
PRESS PLAY WILL CAUSE THE SOVIETS TO RELENT AND AVOID A
BOYCOTT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS. IF THEY DO STAY AWAY, IT
SEEMS LIKELY THAT INTERNATIONAL SPORTING GROUPS WILL BE
RELUCTANT TO BECOME EMBROILED IN SUCH CONTROVERSIES BY
ACCEPTING FUTURE INVITATIONS TO SCHEDULE COMPETITIONS
IN BERLIN.
HILLENBRAND

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